

San Antonio
African American
Civil Rights Project

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Project Description

- This project will explore how members of the San Antonio community engaged with the larger African American Civil Rights movement while, at the same time, staking out a movement that is distinct to San Antonio. The primary period examined in this project will be the years 1954-1968, beginning with the Brown decision and ending with HemisFair. Although one could certainly detail a longer civil rights movement, I believe that for this project this period reveals how San Antonio was both a part of the larger Southern Civil Rights struggle as well as distinct from it. Particular attention will be given to examining the ways that San Antonio was similar but also consistently different from cities such as Houston, Greensboro, & Little Rock. To bring in greater context this project will compare and contrast San Antonio with other less studied cities, and less southern, cities such as Oklahoma City, El Paso, and Corpus Christi.

Breakdown

- Early Background: African American San Antonioans from Reconstruction through World War II
- Military City, USA (The military and government contracting as a source of integration)
- African American Civil Rights Era Stage 1: Schools and Lunch Counters, 1954-1962.
- Stage 2: When interracial cooperation and voluntary integration is not enough. The Struggle for an Anti-Discrimination Ordinance
- Stage 3: Long road toward freedom, 1963 to HemisFair.
- Appendix (an inventory of important structures and buildings for the African-American Civil Rights Movement in SA)

Sources:

- ♦ Minutes of City Council (1950's-1960's)
- ♦ San Antonio ISD Board Meeting Minutes
- ♦ *Light*
- ♦ *Express*
- ♦ *Register*
- ♦ Oral Interviews located at Institute of Texan Cultures
- ♦ Oral interviews that I have conducted
- ♦ Plethora of other primary and secondary sources

Questions?